



**DRAFT**

**LATIN**

**GCSE**

If your students are interested in the ancient world and how the Romans have influenced our lifestyle today, this specification is for you. Our new specification gives students the opportunity to study elements of the language, literature and culture of the Roman world.

# What's happening to GCSEs?

## OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009\*.

We've taken this opportunity to improve the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and learners alike.

We've made improvements in three key areas: updated and relevant content, a focus on developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills, and flexible assessment, so teachers can choose the best learning approach for the job.

We want to make the introduction of these new GCSEs as easy for you to manage as possible.

### The main changes are:

- Controlled assessment will be introduced for most subjects
- The opportunity will be taken to bring course content up to date
- Examinations should provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Our approach is to provide consistency across all our GCSEs by offering the flexibility that unitised qualifications bring, allowing teaching and assessment in either a linear or unitised fashion.

\*Not all GCSEs are changing. There are a few exceptions: the new Science GCSE was introduced in 2006. New English, English Literature, ICT and Maths GCSEs will be offered for first teaching in 2010.



## Improving GCSE Latin with OCR

We've involved teachers throughout the development process, so the new specifications, support materials and schemes of work should be exactly what you need to teach OCR GCSE Latin. To ensure accuracy in our content, we've also consulted subject associations, professional membership groups, subject societies and other subject experts.



### Our GCSE Latin offers:

- Opportunity to study elements of the language, literature and culture of the Roman world
- New unitised specifications allowing centres to either follow a linear route (all examinations and certifications are taken in a single examination series) or a staged assessment (by taking units in different examination series with certification in the final series)
- A short course in Latin now available at all levels A\*-G.

## Making change easy

We'd like to make these changes as easy for you to manage as possible. To minimise disruption, we will:

- Guide you through the process of moving to OCR
- Bring you the latest information through our Focus on 14–19 magazine and our new website [www.GCSEchanges.com](http://www.GCSEchanges.com)
- Show you approved specifications one year ahead of first teaching, so you have plenty of preparation time
- Offer you a range of OCR support materials, including schemes of work and sample assessment materials, as we did with GCEs
- Make OCR's publisher partner resources – tailored to the new specifications – available from January 2009
- Endorse a variety of published resources, giving you a wider choice of quality support materials.

We're also running extra INSET and training courses across the UK, so now it's even easier to discover how OCR has developed its specifications.

## Controlled assessment

### **Controlled assessment is not part of the GCSE Latin specification.**

While reviewing GCSEs, QCA looked into the coursework element of the current qualifications and decided to introduce controlled assessment as an alternative to coursework. This will address some of the issues raised in recent coursework reviews, such as plagiarism.

Controlled assessment has to be done in a supervised environment. However, if the task has a research element, the student may complete this without supervision.



The benefits of controlled assessment include:

- More straightforward marking – for most subjects, we provide worksheets for students to complete
- Improved reliability and validity
- Varying levels of control, to help you manage the assessments and your time more easily
- Greater confidence in authenticating students' work as their own
- Greater ease in fitting assessments into your normal teaching programmes.

## Flexible assessment

The assessment for the new OCR GCSEs is organised into units which can either all be taken at the end of the course in a linear fashion, or be used to complement a more unitised approach to teaching and learning. This gives you the flexibility to choose the assessment approach best suited to your centre and your students. A unitised structure gives you the flexibility to co-teach short and full courses.

We already offer assessments that are organised into units at A Level and for some existing GCSEs. For many subjects, assessments will be available twice a year. Flexible assessment means:

- You will have a choice of learning approaches – linear or unitised
- The assessment can be timed to match the point of learning within the course, making it easier for candidates to show what they know, understand and can do
- Students can re-sit a unit rather than repeat the entire assessment
- Some students are motivated by ongoing feedback and this helps them identify their learning needs
- A unitised approach makes it easier for students to stay on track with their studies and manage their time effectively
- The pressure of an 'all or nothing' assessment is removed
- Examination stress is reduced by permitting assessment over a longer period so that not all assessments are concentrated in a narrow window at the end of two years

- With a similar format to A Levels and Diplomas, GCSEs will help prepare students for the next phase of their education.

To ensure that the assessment supports the coherence of the GCSEs and there is no over-assessment, QCA has put two rules in place: 40% of the assessment must happen at the end of the course and only one re-sit of each assessment unit is allowed.

### **You may know 'unitised' as modular.**

Unit title and description	Assessment including duration	Weighting
<b>Unit A401: Latin Translation and Comprehension</b> • Unseen Latin prose, tested by translation into English and comprehension.	Computer-based test or written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
<b>Unit A402: Latin Translation</b> • Unseen Latin prose, tested by translation into English and/or translation into Latin.	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
<b>Unit A403: Latin Prose Literature</b> • Prescribed prose texts.	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
<b>Unit A404: Latin Verse Literature</b> • Prescribed verse texts.	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
<b>Unit A405: Sources for Latin</b> • Source-based study of Roman civilisation.	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course

## Short Courses

We also offer a short course in GCSE Latin, equivalent to half a GCSE. This offers several advantages:

- There are only two units to complete.
- Students who are interested in a particular subject, but don't have time to study a full course, have more learning options.
- Students can study a wider range of subjects.

- Timetabling for shorter courses can be easier for your centre.
- More able students can complement their studies by taking additional short courses.
- Short courses can be spread over one or two years.
- Candidates must take one language unit (A401 or A402) and one further unit chosen from A403, A404 or A405.

**For the full course, candidates must take the language units (A401 and A402) and two units chosen from units A403, A404 and A405.**



## What changes, and what stays the same?

	What changes?	What stays the same?
<b>Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each unit is of equal value</li><li>• Candidates take four units to gain the full course</li><li>• Candidates take two units to gain the short course.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candidates must take both language and literature and/or other sources.</li></ul>
<b>Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Prose Literature prescription is 135 lines to be studied</li><li>• The Verse Literature prescription is 135 lines to be studied</li><li>• Verse Literature is no longer compulsory</li><li>• There is no coursework unit so source-based study is via examination (Unit A405).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Total number of lines of literature remains 270 (or 135 if only one unit of literature is taken)</li><li>• Roman civilisation option is available as source-based study Unit A405</li><li>• Vocabulary and syntax, except for minor changes, remain the same.</li></ul>
<b>Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All four units are now examined – therefore Unit A405 replaces the old coursework unit</li><li>• Computer-based testing is now available for Unit A401</li><li>• Units A401 and A402 are available in January as well as June</li><li>• Short course is now available. To complete the short course candidates must complete two units (one language and one literature/source unit).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candidates have a choice of optional units (A403, A404, A405)</li><li>• Higher and foundation tier examination papers are available</li><li>• All units are available in June series.</li></ul>

### Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Latin.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

#### AO1

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of language.

#### AO2

- Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation of literature and/or other sources related to society and values of the classical world through analysis, evaluation and response.

## Support for GCSE Latin teachers

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specifications and to support you while teaching them.

Our support materials and events include face-to-face training courses, schemes of work that you can customise, endorsed publisher partner resources, access to teacher and examiner networks (both online and offline), plus an extensive past-papers service.

### OCR's online resources include:

- E-communities – online networks of subject specialists for sharing knowledge, views and ideas
- Interchange – a completely free and secure website that helps you carry out the administrative tasks associated with examinations quickly and easily
- Past examination papers
- Marking schemes
- Subject e-alerts – for teachers who register for updates.

We offer a wide range of training courses in the UK, so you have easy access to information about our new specifications – direct from the experts. See over for more details.



## Training for OCR GCSE Latin

Our Get Ready events offer a taste of the new specification. Dates are given below, and you can book your place now at [www.GCSEchanges.com](http://www.GCSEchanges.com).

Later, we'll be running our Get Started events, which take you through the specification in more detail and help you work towards first teaching. They will take place during the spring and summer terms 2009.

### ***Get Ready – introducing the new specification (first teaching from September 2009)\****

This course is for all teachers – new and experienced – who are interested in finding out more about the new specification. It's open to you, even if you don't teach the current OCR specification.

It's a **FREE** half-day session, including refreshments, a light finger buffet and course materials, offering an overview of the new OCR specification in GCSE Latin.

Key features include:

- A look at the new structure, content and assessment methods
- A comparison between old and new specification content
- An introduction to the support and resources available from OCR
- A summary of the benefits of choosing the new OCR specification.

Date	Location	Course code
Thurs 3 Jul 08 AM	London	OLAA101
Thurs 3 Jul 08 PM	London	OLAA102
Mon 13 Oct 08 AM	London	OLAA103
Mon 13 Oct 08 PM	London	OLAA104
Tues 25 Nov 08 AM	London	OLAA105
Tues 25 Nov 08 PM	London	OLAA106
Wed 3 Dec 08 AM	Birmingham	OLAA107
Wed 3 Dec 08 PM	Birmingham	OLAA108
Mon 9 Feb 09 AM	London	OLAA109
Mon 9 Feb 09 PM	London	OLAA110

Please note:

- Free OCR Training courses will not incur any penalty fees however, so that we can offer your place to another delegate please notify us in good time of your course cancellation.
- Dates are subject to change so please ensure you read your booking confirmation and web updates as OCR Training cannot be held responsible for delegates who attend on an incorrect date.
- Courses throughout summer 2008 and autumn 2008 terms may be based on the draft specification.
- \*The times of these courses may vary from the standard advertised time.

## Publishing support for GCSE Latin teachers

We're working with publisher partner Oxford University Press to provide further resources to support teachers of the new specification.



To find the latest information on published resources, please visit [www.ocr.org.uk/latin/newgcse](http://www.ocr.org.uk/latin/newgcse) and choose published resources from the right-hand menu.



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**www.ocr.org.uk**

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